



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency New England



*Charlestown  
Waterfront Coalition*



MASSACHUSETTS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
TRUST

# Mystic River Watershed Summit

**Agenda & Registration**

EPA New England, Suite 1100  
1 Congress Street, 10th Floor • Boston, MA

**April 10, 2008**

**[www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver](http://www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver)**

# Mystic River Watershed Summit

## Co-sponsored by:

Co-sponsored by EPA New England, Massachusetts Environmental Trust, and Charlestown Waterfront Coalition


## Conference Description

EPA will be holding a "Summit," a gathering of key stakeholders in the Mystic River Watershed, to generate ideas, to develop goals, map a strategy, and most of all, to form a group to work together to restore this great river. The Mystic River flows from the upper Mystic Lakes in Winchester through Arlington and Medford, Somerville, Everett, Charlestown, and Chelsea to Boston Harbor, and is one of the great urban rivers of New England. The river and its watershed include 21 communities, many interest groups and land uses, and have many water quality problems. The Mystic River watershed once served as an epicenter of early activity from which sprung settlement and economic activity in the colonies: mills, shipyards, villages. Our goal is to make it a place that once again provides opportunity for activity—both recreational and commercial—that benefits its citizens with a clean and healthy natural environment.

This summit will focus on improving water quality in the watershed. Water quality encompasses many issues: existing contaminated sites, sources of pollutants to the river, land use, river-related development, restoration and preservation, municipal stormwater management and other stormwater problems. To cover all of these issues, attendees at the summit will divide into four breakout sessions to focus on Bacteria and Stormwater; Industrial Contaminants; Flooding; and Changing Land Use and Its Impact to the River. Each group will be facilitated by leaders knowledgeable about the watershed and will be guided to identify major problems, available tools, key players, and priority actions.



Photo of Alewife Brook between Arlington and Somerville. Courtesy of Roger Frymire



"The Mystic River Watershed Summit is an important step toward our long-term commitment to improving water quality. We hope the Summit will be the foundation to build a strong partnership to clean up this historic urban watershed for generations to come."

—Robert W. Varney  
Regional Administrator, EPA New England

## **Mystic River Watershed Report Card**

In April 2007, EPA New England issued a Report Card on the Mystic, giving the River a grade of "D" for water quality. The River was meeting bacterial water quality standards for swimming just 52% of the time and for boating just 67% of the time. At the same time EPA issued the Report Card, an effort aimed at improving water quality in the Mystic watershed was also launched. In 2008, EPA will once again issue a Report Card for the Mystic River Watershed. This year the Report Card will be presented to the Summit's audience and will give charge to the many involved stakeholders.

# Agenda **April 10, 2008**

**Intended Audience:** Local decision-makers including: municipal leaders and urban planners, planning boards, conservation commissions, public works, water and sewer utilities, regional planning agencies, conservation districts, watershed groups and community advocates, as well as state and federal agencies, consultants and businesses, and permittees.

**8:00 Registration and Coffee**

**8:45 Welcome**

Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator - US EPA New England  
Jarrett Barrios, President - Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

**9:00 Keynote: Restoring Urban Watersheds**

Howard M. Neukrug, P.E. Director - Office of Watersheds,  
City of Philadelphia Water

**10:00 Mystic River Watershed Report Card Announcement**

Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator - US EPA New England  
Laurie Burt, Commissioner (Invited) - MA Department of Environmental Protection  
Fred Laskey, Executive Director - MA Water Resources Authority  
John Reinhardt, President - Mystic River Watershed Association  
Roseann T. Bongiovanni - Chelsea Creek Action Group

**10:50 Break, Networking and Move to Breakout Rooms**



Background materials for your review are posted at:  
EPA's web site ([www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver](http://www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver)) and at the  
Mystic River Watershed Association's web site ([www.mysticriver.org](http://www.mysticriver.org)).  
Please check for updates.

**11:10**

**Breakout Sessions on Specific Topics (concurrent)**

Identify key problems, tools, and players

- Bacteria and Stormwater, CSOs, SSOs, Illicit Connections, etc.
- Industrial Contaminants - Oil Discharges, Contaminants, and Sediment Issues
- Flooding as it Relates to Water Quality
- Changing Land Use and its Impact to the River, Plan for Reconnecting People to the River, Fish Advisories and Getting the Word Out

**12:15**

**Working Lunch (Provided on-site by Massachusetts Environmental Trust and Charlestown Waterfront Coalition)**

**12:45**

**Breakout Sessions (Cont.) - Same Topics and Same Rooms**

Groups will continue the morning discussion with a goal of developing preliminary water quality goals and proposed actions

- Bacteria and Stormwater, CSOs, SSOs, Illicit Connections, etc.
- Industrial Contaminants - Oil Discharges, Contaminants, and Sediment Issues
- Flooding as it Relates to Water Quality
- Changing Land Use and its Impact to the River, Plan for Reconnecting People to the River, Fish Advisories and Getting the Word Out

**2:40**

**Re-convene Full Group - Summary of Sessions**

**3:10**

**Open Microphone**

Discussion of key next steps and future actions

**4:00**

**Adjourn**



# Mystic River Watershed Summit

**April 10, 2008**



## Directions:

**EPA New England  
1 Congress Street, 10th Floor  
Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114**

We encourage you to consider public transportation.  
EPA is directly across from the Haymarket MBTA bus stop (Green and Orange T lines)  
Our offices are on top of the Government Center Parking Garage.  
Directions can also be found at [www.epa.gov/region1/directions](http://www.epa.gov/region1/directions)

Driving From the North  
I-93 South to Exit 24-A (Government Center).  
Take Exit 24-A toward GOV'T CTR.  
Turn Right onto Clinton St - Turn Left onto North St - Turn Right onto Congress St  
Turn Left onto New Chardon St - The entrance to the Court House Parking Garage is  
directly on the left as you turn onto New Chardon St

Driving From the South  
I-93 North to Exit 23 (Government Center) - stay left on exit.  
As you exit the tunnel the ramp splits - stay to the left  
Proceed straight through the 1st light  
At the 3rd light make a right onto Congress St - towards North Station.  
At the 3rd light make a left onto New Chardon Street. The entrance to the Courthouse  
Parking Garage is directly on the left as you turn onto New Chardon St

**For general information about this conference:  
Caitlyn Hunt at EPA New England (617) 918-1748**

Visit [www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver](http://www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver) for program and registration updates.

# Attendee Registration Information

Use **paperless registration online** at [www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver](http://www.epa.gov/region1/mysticriver)

or Register by mail or fax for **Mystic River Watershed Summit • April 10, 2008**

## If online paperless registration is not possible:

*All information must be filled out completely. One name per form.  
Please make additional copies as needed.*

### Mail or fax this completed form:

US EPA New England  
Attn: Caitlyn Hunt (CSW)  
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, MA 02114

fax: (617) 918-0049

## Deadline: Registrations must be made on or before April 4, 2008

Please register early and be prepared to pass through our security system. **You will need a photo ID** to enter the building. If you bring a bag or a briefcase, computer, cell phone or other electronic device, it will be inspected. Please prepare accordingly and consider leaving unnecessary items behind.

General Questions? or if you require special assistance covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call Caitlyn Hunt at (617) 918-1748 by April 4.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your **first** preference of breakout session (check one)

- ☐ Bacteria and Stormwater
- ☐ Industrial Contaminants
- ☐ Flooding as it Relates to Water Quality
- ☐ Changing Land Use/Impact to the River

Please indicate your **second** preference of breakout session (check one)

- ☐ Bacteria and Stormwater
- ☐ Industrial Contaminants
- ☐ Flooding as it Relates to Water Quality
- ☐ Changing Land Use/Impact to the River

EPA NE will use this information for planning purposes. We will do our best to honor your first choice.



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